

S-382  
Election House  
Princess Anne  
private

c.1870

The old Election house in Princess Anne represents a rare survival for an Eastern Shore town. The single-story, one-room plan structure is the only known election house to survive on the lower Shore. Originally built with a hip roof, the rectangular frame is covered with weatherboards and trimmed with corner pilasters and decorative eave brackets. Lighted by large size six-over-six sash windows, the interior was evidently divided into two rooms initially, but the partition was removed at some point. During the past year the building has been thoroughly reworked in an effort to save this rare building <sup>from</sup> serious decay and demolition.

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-382

Magi No. 2003825501

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Election House

**2. Location**

(N. Beckford Ave. & Manokin Ave.?)  
street & number Corner of Church Street and Manokin Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Town of Princess Anne

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code Md 21853

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk Of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md. 21853

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Election house description

The Election house stands on the northwest corner of Church Street and Manokin Street in the northern section of Princess Anne, Somerset County Maryland. The single-story frame structure faces east with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis. (Since the time of survey the building has been moved to a new location fifty yards west of its former site.)

Supported by a brick pier foundation, the mid nineteenth-century weatherboard frame building is covered with a gable front roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. During the moving process it was discovered that an earlier hip roof covered with standing seam tin existed beneath the current roof. Attached to the north side of the rectangular frame is a single-story turn of the century addition.

The east (front) facade is a two-bay elevation with a four-panel door in the north bay. The four-panel door is topped by a three-light transom. Fixed in the southern bay is a large six-over-six sash window. The outside front of the building is trimmed with plain pilasters that rise to a bracketed frieze. The gable front pediment, a later feature, is covered with weatherboards, and the cornice is trimmed with a crown molding.

The south side of the building is two bays across with a six over six sash window in each bay. The bracketed eave continues around the south and north sides. The north side, however, is largely covered by the turn of the century addition.

The west (back) side has a single door opening topped by a three-light transom. There are indications that this opening may have been a window originally and enlarged to a door. The eave is finished without brackets, and the gabled pediment is finished in the same manner as the front.

The one-room interior is finished with riven lath and plaster. When the plaster was removed before moving the building, it was discovered that the interior was formerly divided by a center partition since empty mortises remained in each side post.

The north side addition was constructed in a straightforward manner with a gable roof, weatherboard siding, and a beaded board interior. The front of the addition was marked by a two-over-two sash window and a board door. A narrow brick stove stack remains inside the addition, but the stack above the roof has been removed.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Election house in Princess Anne is a rare survival for the Eastern Shore. The single-story, one-room bracketed structure is one of the few election houses to remain standing in an Eastern Shore town. Largely unchanged on the exterior, the building has been relocated, and it is being restored for use in the Manokin River park.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-382

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Princess AnneQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historianorganization Somerset County Historical Trustdate 7/7/86street & number 424 N. Somerset Ave.telephone 651-0077city or town Princess Annestate Md. 21853

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

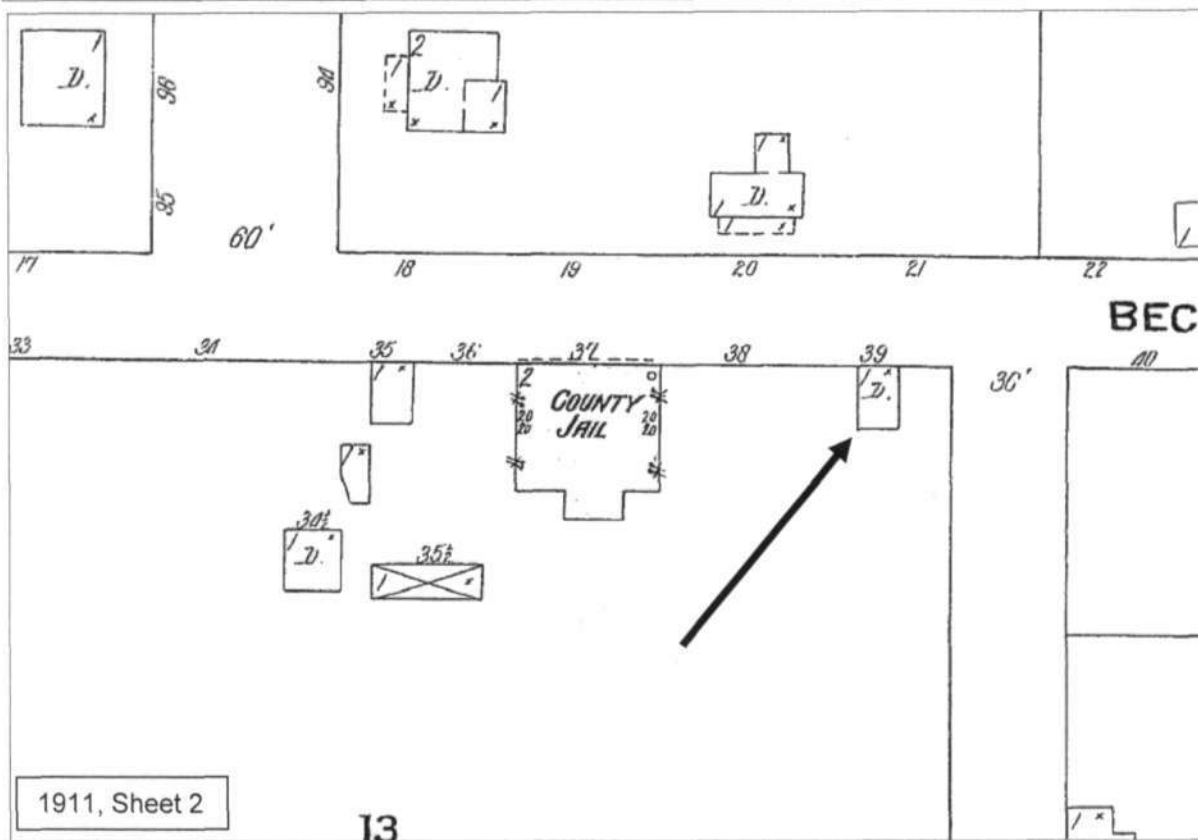
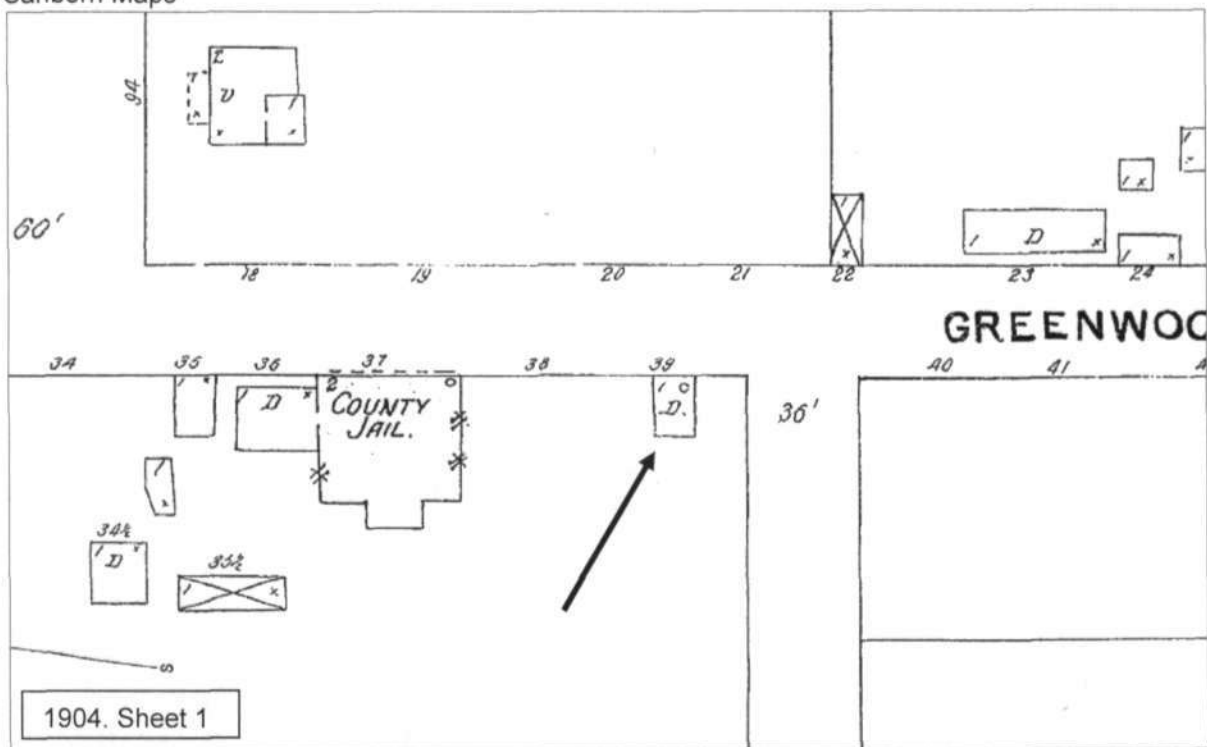
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

S-382

MOVED 1986

Election House and site

Moved from Manokin and Beckford Avenues to 11840 Somerset Avenue (MD 675), Princess Anne  
Sanborn Maps



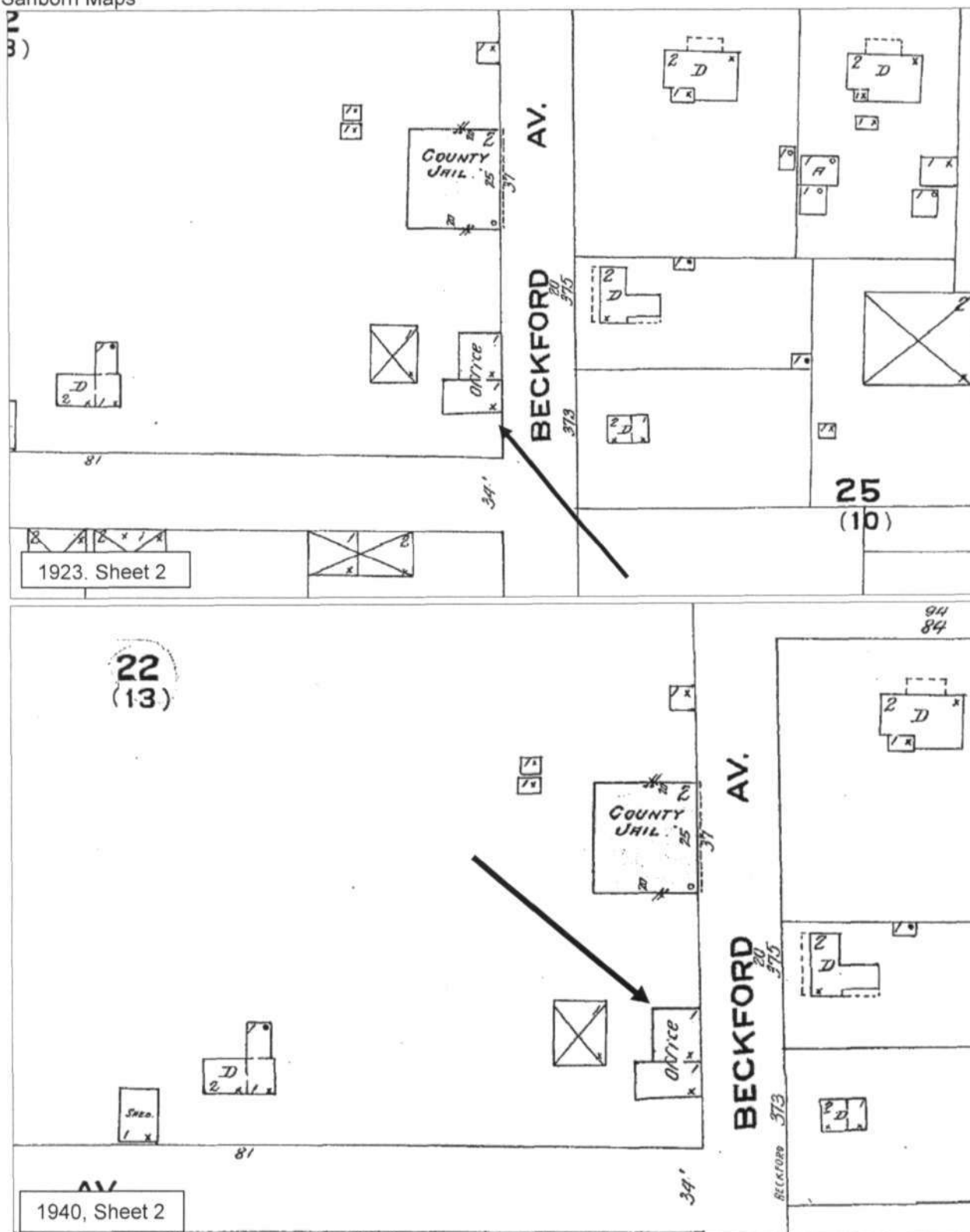


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MOVED 1986

Election House and site

Moved from Manokin and Beckford Avenues to 11840 Somerset Avenue (MD 675), Princess Anne  
Sanborn Maps



S-382

MOVED 1986

Election House and site

Moved from Manokin and Beckford Avenues to 11840 Somerset Avenue (MD 675), Princess Anne  
Princess Anne quad 1972



Tax Map 202, P. 122

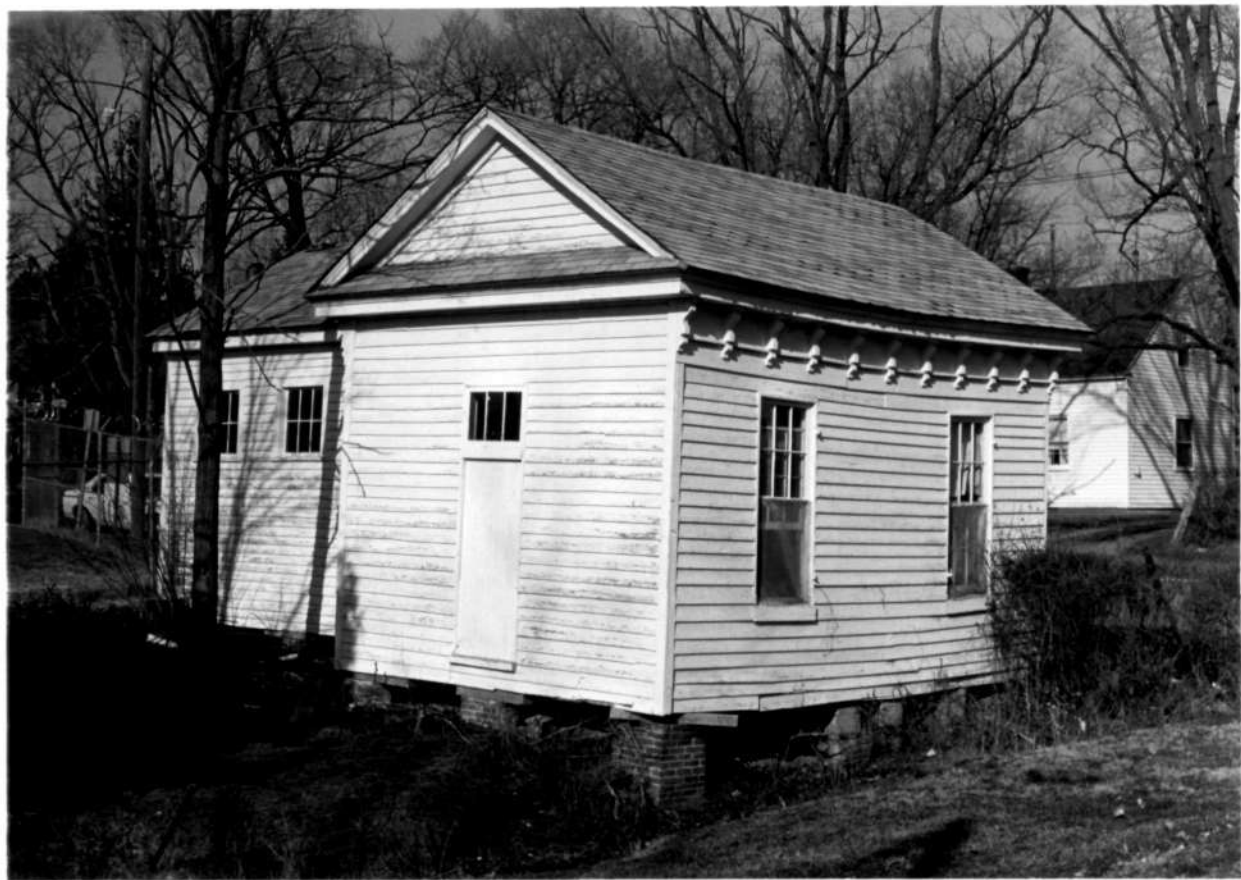
National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010





S-382  
Election House  
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972





Election House S-382  
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.  
Southwest Elevation  
2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Election House

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Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md.

Southeast Elevation

2/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust





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